

Work Session
January 21, 2003

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners met in a work session on Tuesday, January 21, 2003 in the Commissioners Conference Room at 4:30 p.m. All board members were present. *Chairman Maness called the meeting to order and the following was heard:*

Discussion of Homanit's Water

Mr. Reader representing on behalf of Mr. Gunter Heyen, who was not able to attend the work session. Mr. Reader relayed to the board what Mr. Heyen, Mr. Tim Carpenter and Mr. Lee Matthews had previously discussed, he said that that the three of them had already made an agreement. Now Mr. Heyen is requesting that the county honor this agreement. Mr. Reader said that Homanit could have caught this error if they would have known what water costed.

Mr. Matthews commented that the agreement made was a tentative agreement and still had to be approved by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bostic asked if there was any kind of mechanism to detect undercharging?

Mr. Matthews said you can normally tell, but in this case the meter was read wrong at the very beginning.

Commissioner Maness said that it was an honest mistake.

Mr. Matthews said when he spoke with Mr. Heyen that is was o.k. to pay half of the \$40,000 and that was fair at the time, and he would take back this request to get the Commissioners approval.

Commissioner Morris said this was not regular policy.

Commissioner Maness said the money owed needs to be repaid to help cash flow.

Mr. Reader said that it was an honest mistake and that Homanit had no way of knowing on their side.

Mr. Carpenter said that the water usage was too much and the fire hydrant pump had more hours of usage on it than normal. He recommended putting a non-restrictive flow mechanism device on the hydrant.

Mr. Reader said that the pump did have more hours on it due to a couple of fires and that 80-85 % of the time that people just don't shut it off and so it runs 5 or 6 hours.

Mr. Carpenter suggested putting a flow sensor in the pipe.

Mr. Reader said that there is someone at the pump now checking. He also said that they were using the hydrant to wet down the road.

Mr. Carpenter said that the county has a backflow ordinance.

Mr. Reader said the pump usage has gone down.

Commissioner Bostic asked has it worked out how they will repay the money.

Commissioner Maness said that they would pay over a 20-month period.

Commissioner Morris said the Board had not heard of the problem until after Mr. Matthews and Mr. Carpenter had already spoken to Mr. Heyen.

Mr. Matthews said that the decision would have to be approved by the Commissioners.

Presentation of 2001-2001 Fiscal Year Audit

Mr. Matthews said that Mr. Larry Clay was scheduled to have surgery Friday and has spent 24 hours in the hospital and wouldn't be able to present at this time.

Discussion of Commissioners Board Appointments

Commissioner Maness met with Commissioner Knight and Commissioner Corbett to discuss which ones of the Board Appointments have changed. This will be taken to the regular meeting for further discussion.

Discussion of Resolution Urging State Assumption of Local Share of Medicaid

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners has adopted a resolution asking the State to assume the local share of Medical cost.

Commissioner Maness said he thought that it would do well this year.

Mr. Lee Matthews said it was worth a try.

Commissioner Corbett asked if this had been addressed before.

Mr. Jim Sanders, DSS Director said that it had been brought up in a prior meeting. He also said that the state was not able to fully eliminate costs of county, costs of Medicaid and related costs.

Mr. Matthews said that the Commissioners did adopt two similar resolutions in the past.

Commissioner Morris said that we need to do it again.

Mr. Matthews said that we need to carry this forward to the Regular Session.

County Manager's Report

Handy Sanitary

Mr. Matthews said that they have been following up on Handy Sanitary, but no official decision has been made.

Mr. Tim Carpenter gave Handy a cost estimate contract for a five-year increment; he said the term of contract could recover costs. Mr. Carpenter said that Montgomery County has not been in business of selling water and that USDA funds for water tap were reasonable costs.

Commissioner Maness said they need to put a minimum on water usage.

Mr. Matthews said that he would see if they were interested in pursuing and invoke a response from them.

Commissioner Maness asked what would be the pleasure of the board? All were in favor of sending a letter to Handy for a further decision.

Commissioner Bostic asked what was the possibility of taking the lines over?

Mr. Carpenter said there would be potential limitations they would use 900 thousand gallons on peaks and upgrades were necessary. Mr. Carpenter said he was not sure if this was the best option.

Commissioner Bostic said he would rather spend the money to take over the 700 +/- customers.

Mr. Carpenter said that they would need an eight-inch line parallel to the one we have now.

Mr. Matthews said that there would be legal issues.

Mr. Carpenter said that they couldn't extend any further than their boundaries.

Commissioner Maness said that \$130,000 is cheap insurance.

Commissioner Bostic asked if Richmond County was selling water to Montgomery County residents?

Mr. Carpenter asked if Richmond County Manager has permission to serve residents in Montgomery County?

Commissioner Maness said that Mr. Matthews and Mr. Carpenter were to check on this issue.

Commissioner Maness asked what would be the pleasure of the board? The Board agreed to see if they would receive a response from Handy.

Commissioners meeting on February 4th

On February 4th Commissioners were to greet the Lt. Governor

Commissioner Morris said to move the time of the meeting up.

Commissioner Corbett said to cancel meeting and have just one for the month of February.

Commissioner Maness said to have one meeting for the month and let it be on the eighteenth of February as scheduled.

Mr. Parsons – well issue

Mr. Matthews said that after Mr. Parsons came to the last Commissioners meeting the EMS staff has recommended and changed the addresses. The well problem has been taken care of.

Commissioner Knight said that he was using the dumpster and there was a lot of mess in front of the gate, he feels that the guard should be responsible for the clean up of this.

Commissioner Maness said that he would touch base with the guard and talk to the sheriff about someone leaving trash outside of the dump.

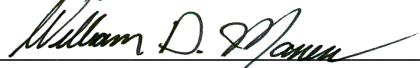
Commissioner Bostic said that the guys that man the dumpster have very little to do, it only takes 10 to 15 minutes to clean the dumpster site and it would be a waste of time to sending the deputy out there. Commissioner Bostic also asked if it was about time for the contract to expire?

Mr. Matthews will check further into this.

Items Carried Forward to the Regular Session

- State assumption of local share of Medicaid
- Board Appointments
- Commissioners meeting-change date

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



William D. Maness, Chairman



Robin L. Saunders, Asst.
Clerk to the Board